

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re Patent Application of:  
Yasushi Abe et al.

Application No.: 10/620,363

Confirmation No.: 8922

Filed: July 17, 2003

Art Unit: 2624

For: APPARATUS, PROGRAM, MEDIUM FOR  
IMAGE-AREA SEPARATION, IMAGE  
PROCESSING AND IMAGE FORMING

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Examiner: T. D. Lee

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116**

MS AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated November 9, 2007, finally rejecting claims 1, 3-5, 9, 11-13, 15-21, 23-25, 27 and 28, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 9 of this paper.